Name _____

Rosalind Franklin



Rosalind Franklin was born on July 25th,1920 in London, England. She was born to a Jewish family and her family helped Jewish refugees who escaped Nazi Germany. In 1938 Franklin studied chemistry at Newnham College. She received her bachelors in 1941. She was awarded a scholarship and a research grant.

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After WWII she learned how to use x-rays to determine the atomic and molecular structure of an element. In 1950 she worked at King's College and started to study DNA. She used x-rays to study the structure of DNA and produced high quality images of them. By 1953 she had collected her data and concluded that DNA forms a double helix shape. James Watson and Francis Crick who were scientists were also working on determining the structure of DNA using Franklin's x-ray image. They published their paper using her research before she had the chance and won the Nobel prize but left her uncredited. She left King's College for Birkbeck College in 1953 and studied RNA. She used x-rays to study the structure of the tobacco mosaic virus and other plant viruses. In 1956 she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She created a model of the tobacco mosaic virus which was exhibited after she died on April 16th, 1958 at the age of 37. She had also begun working on studying polio before she died.

Reading Worksheet

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Rosalind Franklin

1. She was born on_____

in

2. Name what she is famous for



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3. She discovered that DNA was

4. She died on _____